Autonomous Inspection Authority for aviation sector

*414. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish an Independent and Autonomous Inspection Authority for aviation sector;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the existing institutional set up functioning for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Creation of an Autonomous Statutory Economic Regulatory Authority (CAERA) to oversee the financial practices of the airport, air navigation services providers and air transport operators, within the overall framework of the draft Civil Aviation Policy is under consideration. Safety and security would continue to be overseen by DGCA and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security respectively.

Tourist projects for Gujarat

*415. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to attract more tourists, both foreign and Indian, to Gujarat;

(b) whether Government have initiated any special measures to familiarise the foreign tourists with the tourist destinations in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of specific projects for Central assistance during 1999-2000; and

(e) the details of Central assistance, the amount sanctioned and released?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Promotion of Tourism to a State is an activity predominantly undertaken by the State Government. Union

Department of Tourism also promotes tourism by taking up the following activities :—

1. Creating awareness by way of advertising in print and electronic media.

2. Organising seminar/workshop on tourism.

3. Extensive use of Information Technology in the field of tourism through India tourism Websites, preparation of CD ROMS etc.

4. Participation in travel and tourism fairs.

5. Production of publicity material.

(b) and (c) Inviting TV teams, media persons, tour operators, travel agents and opinion makers on a familiarization trip from overseas countries to cover the attraction of Gujarat specially the Royal Orient Express (luxury train).

(d) and (e) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Scheme/Projects sanctioned and amount released for the Year 1999-2000 for Gujarat

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Provision for public toilet at Chatila in Gujarat	15.00	4.50
2.	Signage at Somnath Palitana Dwarka Porbandar Bhuj Pavagadh Saputera Ambaji	7.50	2.25
3.	Public toilet facilities at Gatteswar in Gujarat	15.00	5.00
4.	Provision of wayside facilities at Malawan	20.00	6.00
5.	Development of Dhalavira Phase-I	72.04	21.60
6.	Infrastructure Development of Kutch Mandvi	23.36	7.00
7.	Development of Dwarka Phase-II	41.11	12.30

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
8.	Expansion of tourist complex at Bhuj	24.72	7.40
9.	Refurbishment of Polo Monument at Vijayanagar	30.00	0.01 (token amount)
10.	Upgradation expansion of tourist complex at Saputara	24.91	0.01 (token amount)
11.	Public convenience facilities at Saputara	15.00	0.01 (token amount)
12.	Wayside amenities at Halvad	20.00	0.01 (token amount)
13.	Fairs and Festivals (7)	19.00	9.50
	TOTAL:	327.64	75.59

Rationalisation of Income tax structure

*416. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate amount of income tax paid in the normal course every month by Government officials of the rank of section officer and above;

(b) whether it is a fact that incidence of income tax is harsh in cases of single incomes and for planning post retirement requirements;

(c) the steps Government propose to rationalise the income tax structure to provide for zero tax liability by promoting short and long term savings in priority sectors; and

(d) whether Government propose to withdraw the surcharge on income tax as promised by the Finance Minister at the time of its imposition, if so, by when; and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) No such statistics are maintained in respect of the amount of income-tax paid every month by Government Officials of any particular cadre.

(b) In view of the threshold limit of Income-tax of Rs. 50,000/- for individuals, standard deduction on salaried income upto a maximum amount of Rs. 25,000/- and maximum tax rebate of Rs. 16,000/- on